

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action currently outstanding with regard to the above-identified application.

Claims 1-5 were pending at the time of the issuance of the currently outstanding Official Action. By the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1 and 2 have been amended, and Claims 3-5 have been canceled. No new Claims have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-2 as hereinabove amended will constitute the Claims pending in this application upon the entry of the foregoing Amendment.

More particularly, in the currently outstanding Official Action, the Examiner has:

1. Acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 USC §119 (a)-(d) or (f), and confirmed the receipt by the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the required copies of the priority documents;
2. Failed to indicate whether or not the drawings as filed are acceptable –
Applicant respectfully requests an indication concerning the allowability of the drawings presently on file in this case in response to this communication; and
3. Acknowledged the receipt and consideration of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statements of 1 May 2001, 22 May 2003, 21 November 2003, and 13 April 2004 by providing Applicant with copies of the Forms PTO-1449 that accompanied those Information Disclosure Statements duly signed, dated and initialed by the Examiner in confirmation of his consideration of the art shown therein; and

4. Rejected claims 1-5 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Hanson et al. (US Patent 6,546,425).

No further comment regarding items 1-3 above is deemed to be required in these Remarks.

With respect to item 4, Applicant respectfully notes that by the foregoing Amendment Claims 1 and 2 have been extensively amended, and that Claims 3-5 have been canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, the Claims of this application have been amended so as to particularly claim an access point device of the type described therein having a display means and an input means that allow the access point device to function in the manner claimed.

Support for the foregoing amendment is found in the present specification at the full paragraph appearing on page 22 wherein it is stated that: "the access point device 18 includes the authentication request display means 16 and the authentication input means 15. When a mobile station in the area performs the authentication procedure before the initiation of the association procedure, the authentication request display means 16 make a notification of the authentication-requesting mobile station in the area so that the access point device 18 obtains the final authorization of the authentication procedure from the LAN administering user. The network administrator notified provides an authentication-authorizing or – rejecting instruction to the authentication-requesting mobile station through the authentication input means 15."

In other words, therefore, in order to obtain a final authorization, it is necessary that the network administrator should confirm the presence of the authentication-requesting mobile station in a particular area via the authentication request display means 16 that notifies the network administrator of the presence of the mobile station in the designated area before an authentication-authorization or -rejection for the mobile station displayed as requesting authorization can be made.

As further explained on page 22 of the present specification, the foregoing feature of the present invention provides an advantageous effect. Specifically, "(i)n the preassociation authentication procedure of the mobile station on a LAN system which is physically invisible and therefore subject to attacks from network intruders with evil intent, the access point device allows the network administering user to see who is making the association before granting authorization, instead of the automatic authorization by the access point. This means a significant improvement in security level."

Hence, it will be understood that the above-mentioned features create a situation in which the authentication procedure, that has conventionally been preformed automatically, now involves a visual examination by the administrator. Specifically, the access point device by the foregoing amendment has been clarified in that it now is specifically recited that it comprises an authentication request display means for notifying the LAN administrator of the presence of a mobile station requesting authentication for obtaining authorization of an authentication procedure in the relevant area, and an authentication input means for the (notified) network administrator to instruct an authentication-authorization or -rejection to the authentication-requesting mobile station displayed on the authentication request display means.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Hanson reference upon which the Examiner relies in the currently outstanding rejections of the claims of this application does not satisfy the criteria necessary to support a finding of anticipation. In order to anticipate a claim, a reference must disclose all of the elements claimed arranged and functioning in substantially the same manner as claimed. Applicant respectfully asserts that the Hanson reference fails to satisfy these criteria in this case.

In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that the Hanson device is essentially a device of the conventional type wherein the authentication and association procedures are both performed automatically. Thus, as the Examiner has suggested, the Hanson reference does contemplate that (1) a system administrator can manage the consumption of network resources by placing controls on the Mobile Management Server, the mobile stations or both, (2) the system administrator has the ability to control and limit each user's access to network resources on a per user basis as well as a per-device basis, and (3) the administrator is provided with a console from which to exercise the foregoing management and/or controls. The fact nevertheless remains, however, that nothing in the Hanson reference teaches, discloses or even suggests that the network administrator must separately and specifically authorize by the activation of an input means each association requested by a mobile station in a particular area as notified to him by a display means. Instead, Applicant respectfully submits that the Hanson reference merely discloses that the system administrator can vary the parameters automatically applied by the system in the authentication/association procedure as necessary, not that the system administrator has to separately and specifically authorize each association by the activation of an input means in response to an input notification of a request for authorization presented to him by a display means.

In light of the foregoing Amendment and in view of each and all of the reasons discussed in the foregoing Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 2 are now in condition for allowance. A decision so holding in response to this communication is respectfully requested.

Finally, Applicant believes that additional fees are not required in connection with the consideration of this response to the currently outstanding Official Action. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105**, as necessary, for the correct payment of all fees which may be due in connection with the filing and consideration of this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

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